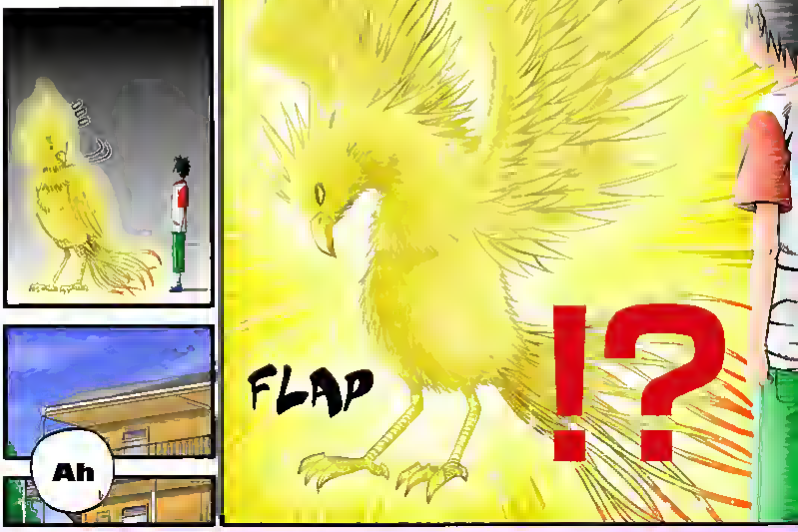
SEVERAL DAYS AGO...
YOU'RE VISITING A COMPLETE STRANGER'S HOUSE FOR THAT? NOT A FAMILY RESTAURANT OR SOME PLACE?
.....
Tsuruno Naoki
I'm a little tired, so would you mind if I take a rest inside?
Um... My name is Asuka.

I SAVED A YOUNG BIRD THAT WAS CAUGHT IN A TRAP.
I WONDER HOW A BIRD COULD EVEN FALL PREY TO A MOUSETRAP
AND NOW,
AN UNKNOWN GIRL HAS COME TO VISIT.
.....
[CRANE'S RETURN OF A FAVOR]?
NAH, BIRDS DON'T JUST BECOME HUMANS... DO THEY?
Er.. Has your leg wound from that time healed now?
Yes! It's fine now!
SHE FELL INTO IT EASILY.

By no means, please do not peek inside.
SHUT
HER ACTING IS TOTALLY OUT OF PLACE
Pardon my intrusion
Hey!
You can't just
Well, then.
SHE'S BLURTING EVERY-THING OUT!
SHE HAS ZERO INTENTION TO HIDE HER IDENTITY!
Hm? How do I start weaving, again?
Next is weaving with my feathers...
chatter chatter
Ker-chack
LET'S REVEAL HER IDENTITY AND ASK HER TO GO HOME.
IT'LL BE AWKWARD, BUT I GUESS I'LL PEEK INSIDE
I CAN'T REALLY STAY HERE FOREVER.



Phoenix's Return of a Favor

Sugiura Shinya

Will you insert, this feeling?

Identity

SO YOU GOT CAUGHT IN A MOUSETRAP RIGHT AFTER YOU RESSURECTED, HUH.
Right after reviving, our appearance becomes that of a fledgling.
astonished
The one also known as the immortal bird, and the bird of fire..?
Yes.
You're a phoenix
..?
It was.. my first time to be rescued from a trap
I am really grateful for that...
I'll take them off if you so desire it!!
JUST WHAT KIND OF REFERENCE DID SHE STUDY BEFORE COMING HERE?
Well, even if you put it like that...
I implore you, Naoki-san!
Please, let me serve you to return the favor!

Errand

Then... let's have you go on a shopping trip for now.
Okay, fine.
I'm sorry, please repeat one more time from the start!
YOU BIRD-BRAIN!
Good.
The place is...
!
Yes! Please leave it to me!
This is too much for you!
FLIP
Let's just go together!
Then, I'll be right b-
Wait wait wait wait wait!
T-thank you very much.
I've made a map and the list for you.
Here,
stretch

What She Hates

Asuka, what do you feel like eating right now?
Eh? How could I..? I'll eat anything, so please do not be concerned about me!
Is this a food depot?
HEY, YOU'RE DROOLING!
Amazing...!
Oh! Those chicken skewers seem tasty.
AAH... I GUESS CHICKEN MEAT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
quiver
quiver

Egg

Wild Eggs
Wild Eggs
Food
TWITCH
!
Those eggs are unfertilized, so chicks won't hatch out from them.
……
I'LL MAKE DINNER BY MYSELF.
sniff
This cannot become a chick...
This will not become a chick.
This is not a chick...
SHE'S PLACING A SELF-SUGGESTION

Chopsticks

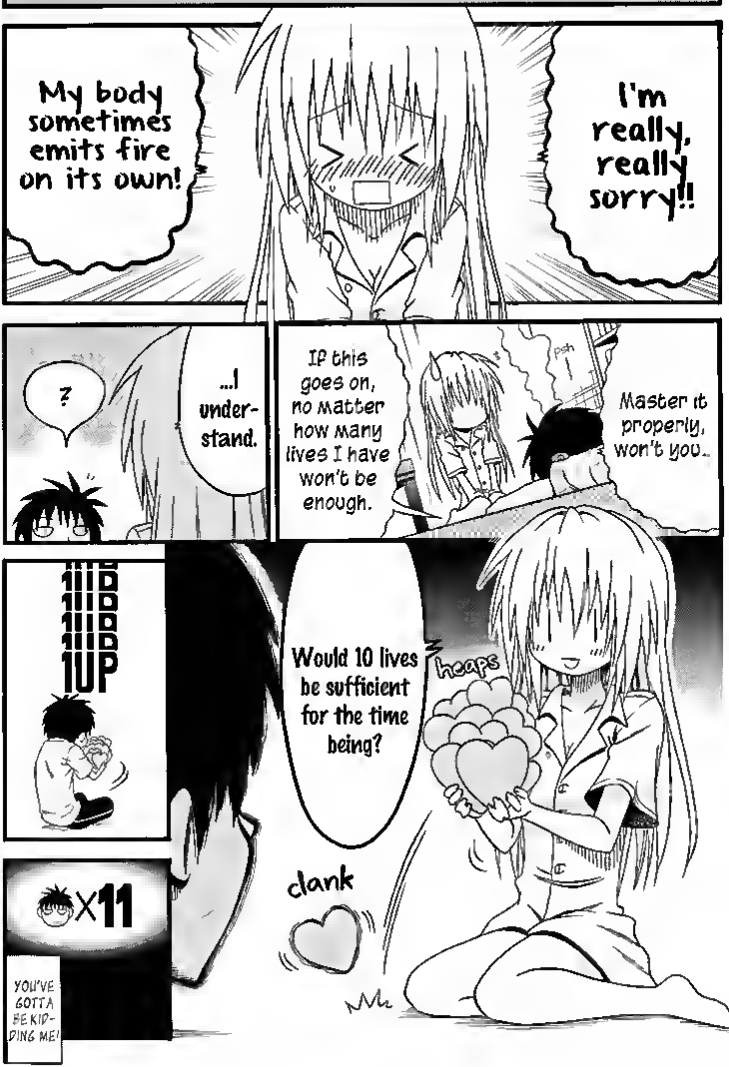
Also, your way of holding chopsticks is unacceptable.
Eh?
You can stop right there!
Aaa aah
Look at my hand.
To avoid making an 'X' letter,
it'll be easier if you keep a 'V' when you eat.
delicious~
munch
.....
Mmh?!
chomp
And, here you go.
Here's your feed~

Alias "Bird of Fire"

Hey, Asuka..
Yes?
What are you doing in here?
It was written in a book I read yesterday, "To serve a man, you need to join him in bath."
AS I SAID, WHAT KIND OF REFERENCE BOOK IS THAT!
..but
?

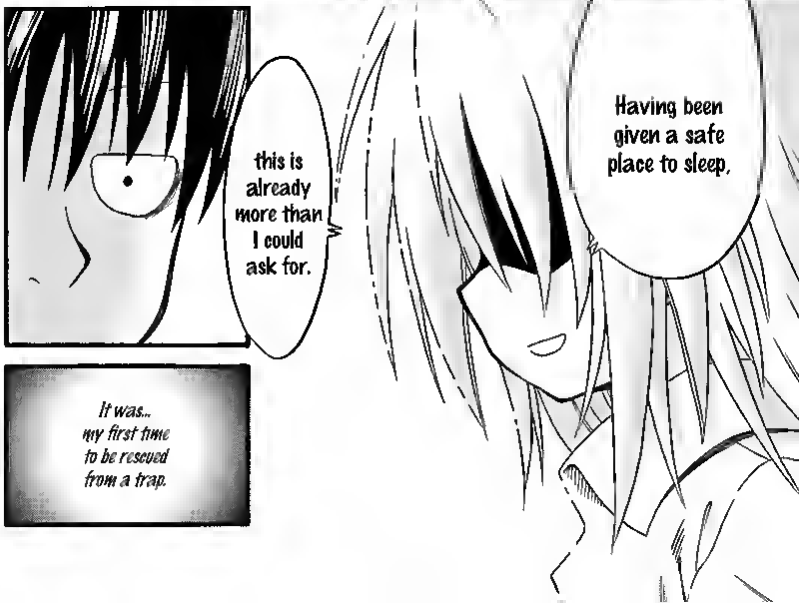
i only realized it after i assume the shape of a human
Um.. doing this is really embarrassing, isn't it?
It's as if there is fire setting on my face.
Blaze
YOU'RE ACTUALLY EMITTING IT FROM YOUR WHOLE BODYYY!!!
It's Hooot

Life


I'm really, really sorry!!
My body sometimes emits fire on its own!
Master it properly, won't you..
psh
If this goes on, no matter how many lives I have won't be enough.
...I understand.
?
Would 10 lives be sufficient for the time being?
heaps
clank
1UP
x11
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

Asuka's Past

A PHOENIX CAUGHT AN AVIAN FLU?!
I once suffered from avian influenza, but I was healed when I died.
Besides
You won't get a good sleep if you catch a cold.
I'll be alright.
You sure you gonna be alright without a futon?


this is already more than I could ask for.
Having been given a safe place to sleep,
It was... my first time to be rescued from a trap.

SHE MUST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ATTACKED OR MAKING PACTS WITH HUMANS IN HER LIVES.
OH YEAH.
ASUKA IS A "PHOENIX", THE LEGENDARY BIRD.
sigh
Asuka, uh..
You can keep your bird form at least when you sleep.
Yes♡
SHINE
Sorry.
I'm taking my words back.
Glitter
Glitter
Glitter
Glitter

A Talking Bird

Naoki and Asuka

I won't just go ahead and leave you, Naoki-san!
smile
After all, I need to serve you a whole lot more!
Were you perhaps... searching for me?
twitch
Huh?!
No, I... Well, just for a bit.
First, you'll have to memorize the basic rules for humans.
The End

If you are looking for me, I will be awaiting your summons!

Scanlated by Aoitenshi

Visit us at manga.aoitenshi.com
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Asuka

Hello readers, I am Aoitenshi.

This manga was one of the eight entries for the 4th Oneshot Carnival Premium 45 at Gangan Online.

I am not sure which received the first place,
but personally, I like this one the most.
And I hope you that enjoyed the story, as well.

Best wishes for Naoki and Asuka,
from Aoitenshi